

TP Organics' Stakeholder Forum

4 December 2019

1. **Approval of the new TP Organics' Steering Committee** (for the coming 3 years)
 - Round of introduction (presentation of TP Organics' work as a network; participants shortly presenting themselves)
 - The following persons were approved after shortly presenting themselves, their background and contribution to TP Organics:
 - **An Jamart**, BioForum Vlaanderen (organic sector, interest in advancing co-creation)
 - **Jiri Lehejcek**, IFOAM EU (hosting organisation, spreading TP Organics in CEE countries)
 - **Marco Schlüter**, Naturland (farmers' association, international development/projects)
 - **New: Mute Schimpf**, Friends of the Earth Europe (civil society organisations, public money for public goods)
 - **New: Miguel de Porras**, FiBL Europe (research, academia, advisory services, working more at national level as well as with EIP-AGRI and SCAR AKIS)
2. **Updates advocacy work on Horizon Europe by Bram Moeskops**
 - **Innovation Principle** was introduced by industry interest in the Recitals of Horizon Europe, stating that new legislation should consider potential for innovation. This risks deregulation of environmental and health protection; final Recitals have not yet been approved so TP Organics will keep working to remove the principle and managed to raise awareness about the dangers.
 - New Members of the European Parliament (MEPs): TP Organics sent a welcome letter and developed a guide, calling on MEPs to make Horizon Europe work for the European society
 - EU Research & Innovation Days 2019: TP Organics participated in co-design sessions
 - **Surveys of the European Commission**: TP Organics submitted responses, also consulting the Steering Committee and Advisory Board
 - TP Organics met Thomas Arnold, SDG Advisor to the Commission (DG RTD) to discuss the Strategic Programme and how Horizon Europe can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - **Briefing on Horizon Europe by TP Organic** is [published](#), summarising how Horizon Europe will work (short version in the new [Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda](#))
 - January 2020: first work Programme will be prepared – Commission first draft → TP organics to develop input to the Commission
 - During the Organic Innovation Days 2019, the Commission agreed to **meetings with DG RTD** (Peter Wehrheim, Head of Unit for Bioeconomy) & **DG AGRI** (hopefully Kerstin Rosenow, Head of Unit Research and Innovation)*.
 - Overview of new H2020 projects that started recently, e.g.
 - **BioFruitNet** (coordinated by Naturland, Germany) is collecting existing knowledge and practices and distributing solutions
 - **PPILOW** about animal welfare (pigs and poultry), coordinated by INRA, France
 - Outside the organic sector: project on soil biodiversity (coordinated by CREA, Italy); aquaculture project (organic and conventional)

- Examples of collaborations with other partners: 3 joint topics in the new Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (SRIA) were developed together with Animal Task Force; [LIAISON](#) project – European Rural Innovation Contest (presentation of the winners at the Organic Innovation Days 2019; [Food for Life](#) workshop in 2020 to align vision)
 - Planned events in 2020:
 - **TP Organics' Science Day at Biofach** with organic companies – opportunities in Horizon Europe (partnerships on food safety, reducing food and packaging waste)
 - **Organic Innovation Days** (last week of November, possibly together with LIVESEED final conference – 1-day European workshop) – will be only a few months before Horizon Europe starts → brokerage event at Organic Innovation Days
- 3. Membership updates – presentation of the membership engagement strategy developed by TP Organics**
- New members: DAFNAE, Italy (also supporter) and BioBest, Belgium joined in 2019
 - Membership engagement strategy (concept):
 - A Welcome Package was developed and will be sent to all members (not only new members in 2020), including an overview of how TP Organics works and tools available for members. It will include the new SRIA, position papers, a SRIA presentation toolkit for advocacy work (presentation template developed with a designer) and an explanation how to participate more in TP Organics' activities and advocacy work. It will be finalised in early 2020.
 - To strengthen TP Organics' membership, also the quality of engagement, the Secretariat is working on the member engagement strategy to be finalized in early 2020. It includes the analysis of the current level of engagement:
 - **High-level engagement** in our context means regular contact, input to advocacy work (SRIA, financial support).
 - Medium level: occasional contact
 - Low level: no participation in events; no contact
 - The 5 categories revealed that companies are currently least engaged while national platforms (NTPs) are highly engaged. Research institutes are engaged on a medium to high level; other members, e.g. farmers, medium to low.
- 4. Discussion**
- FarmDemo/NEFERTITI platform (demonstrating how to make **demo events** more feasible) should be considered in organising events
 - New project with FiBL **i2connect** will improve training for advisors
 - The new SRIA will be presented at CORE Organic anniversary event in Bonn (starting on 10 December 2019). It will also be discussed how the changing mechanism in Horizon Europe will impact future **transnational calls**, and how partnerships will look like → discussion with the Commission, but also strategic next steps of CORE Organic, remaining strong in transnational research, telling national ministers to move towards partnerships with organic in view of the new organic regulation (transnational research as part of the Agroecology partnership/own partnership?)
 - Organic Eprints, FarmKnowledge platform: It is important to think about how to make them more sustainable, also economically.

- It was proposed to include geographical information in the membership mapping through a map where members are coming from.
- **Group discussion** on how to improve member engagement: It was pointed out that regarding brokerage and consortia, TP Organics functions as perfect platform/media for bringing players together, and that TP Organics should send the list of participants ahead of the event so that they can focus on/decide which participants to talk to. Especially regarding longer term calls, sharing the list in advance would enable participants to better know each other's' backgrounds and interest in calls/consortia. TP Organics could coach partners and support first steps, introduce new and "old" participants.
- **Involvement of TP Organics with NTPs:** preparation/follow up (participant list before, email list after the event), making better use of the Organic Innovation Days (e.g. take-home messages to spread to audiences); terms of reference – role, activities, how to better connect to be included in the member engagement strategy.
- It was also discussed to launch a **call for new NTPs** (interested in becoming one), and to open up advocacy for members interested to take part.

5. Next actions

- January/February: TP Organics will send a **survey for all members** on your needs as member of TP Organics and preferred level and ways of engagement (e.g. becoming more involved in advocacy or TP Organics promoting you at events). Please participate and share your ideas to efficiently strengthen our membership!
- *As the meeting with DG RTD (already confirmed) will only take 30 minutes, it will not be worth for members outside Brussels to join. However, please indicate your interest in joining TP Organics Secretariat **meeting with DG AGRI** in January 2020 to explain why research for organic and agroecology is needed! Also farmers and organic companies are invited.
- TP Organics is looking for companies that would like to give a testimony (e.g. Hipp) at **Science Day at Biofach 2020**. Please indicate your interest!
- Please let us know if you have comments on the planned events for 2020 or ideas for other events!
- A list will be sent after the Organic Innovation Days, together with the presentations and engagement strategy document. Please comment!
- Feel free to share your events/calls etc on our website – write to info@tporganics.eu
- Drop in for a coffee in our office whenever you're in Brussels for face-to-face updates.